

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 9-14 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment is requested.

Referring to pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has defined a "generic concept" for examination along with the elected species. The generic concept is identified on page 2 of the Office Action. On page 3 of the Office Action, it is indicated that "Claims 1-8 are objected to as containing non-elected subject matter [but] the claims presently drawn solely to the elected subject matter as indicated supra, would appear allowable."

In response, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to further define the group Q as representing an imidazole. In addition, n has been further defined as being an integer of from 2 to 5.

Applicants respectfully submit that a polymerizable molten salt monomer represented by formula (I) as recited in amended Claim 1 is appropriate rather than the generic concept identified by the Examiner, for the following reasons.

Applicants have found that in the monomer of the present invention, the nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocyclic atomic group represented by Q (*i.e.*, an imidazole) and the polyethyleneoxy structure are particularly important for exerting the effects of the invention. In contrast, no particular restriction is imposed on the group Y₁ that connects these structures and any divalent interlocking group or bonding hand may be employed therefor. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that at least from this technical aspect, it is unreasonable to limit the interlocking group to only one species, *i.e.*, -CH₂O-.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/765,368

Regarding Y_2 , Applicants respectfully submit that the same scope as recited in Claim 1, similarly to the above Y_1 , is appropriate. The importance resides in that at least one of the plural Y_2 groups has a polymerizable substituent, rather than what the polymerizable substituent is. In other words, the function owing to having a polymerizable substituent group in at least one of the plural Y_2 groups is important in the present invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that limiting the polymerizable substituent to a specific single substituent as indicated in the Office Action is unreasonable at least in view of this technical aspect.

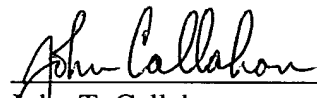
In view of the foregoing and the fact that that the Examiner has cited no prior art, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended herein, is appropriate. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims and allowance of the present application are requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/765,368

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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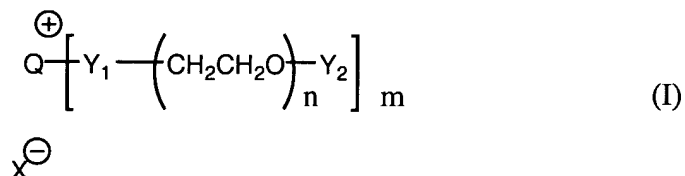
Date: April 7, 2003

APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended): A polymerizable molten salt monomer represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein Q represents a ~~nitrogen-containing aromatic heterocyclic atomic group which can form a cation~~ an imidazole; Y₁ represents a divalent interlocking group or a bonding hand; Y₂ represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group; n represents an integer of from 2 to 20; m represents an integer of ~~2 or more~~ from 2 to 5; X⁻ represents an anion; plural Y₁'s and plural Y₂'s may be the same or different, respectively, with the proviso that at least one of Y₂'s has a polymerizable substituent group; and a plurality of the compounds of the general formula (I) may be connected to each other at Q or Y₂ to form a dimer, trimer or tetramer.